

troops. I have only sent four out of the hundreds of pictures he has taken because many of them are too graphic to be shared.

During these difficult economic times, we should not allow scarce American tax dollars to support countries that empower war criminals like Bashir. I look forward to your response and hope you will use this opportunity to demonstrate that the U.S. will stand up to those countries that help perpetuate Bashir's rule.

Best wishes.

Sincerely,

FRANK R. WOLF,
Member of Congress.

[From the BBC News Africa, Oct. 14, 2011]
OMAR AL-BASHIR ARREST REQUEST REJECTED
BY MALAWI

Malawi has rejected calls to arrest visiting Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir, who is wanted for war crimes in Darfur.

Mr. Bashir was welcomed by a military guard of honour when he arrived in the capital, Lilongwe, for a trade summit.

Malawi's Information Minister Patricia Kaliati told the BBC it was not her government's "business" to arrest him.

The International Criminal Court issued an arrest warrant for Mr. Bashir in 2008.

The European Union and human rights groups have urged Malawi, which is a signatory to the ICC, to arrest Mr. Bashir.

"Genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes must not go unpunished and their prosecution must be ensured by measures at both domestic and international level," a spokesman for EU foreign policy chief Catherine Ashton said.

Ms. Kaliati said Malawi could not detain Mr. Bashir as he was attending a heads of state summit of the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (Comesa), a regional trade bloc.

"He's coming for business and we don't have any business to do with the arrest of President Omar," she told the BBC's Network Africa programme.

"We are very honoured to have these heads of state."

STAUNCH ICC CRITIC

The BBC's Joel Nkhoma in Lilongwe says Malawi's refusal to arrest Mr. Bashir is not surprising because President Bingu wa Mutharika has become a staunch critic of the ICC.

He accuses it of unfairly targeting African leaders and believes that Africa should set up its own court to try alleged war criminals, our reporter says.

Mr. Bashir was the first head of state to be indicted by the ICC, which accused him of genocide and war crimes in Darfur.

Mr. Bashir denies the allegation, saying the ICC is controlled by Western powers hostile to Sudan.

Several other African countries have also refused to arrest Mr. Bashir and the African Union has urged the UN to suspend the arrest warrant.

Some 2.7 million people have fled their homes since the conflict began in Darfur, and the UN says about 300,000 have died—mostly from disease.

Sudan's government says the conflict has killed about 12,000 people and the number of dead has been exaggerated for political reasons.

[From Thomson Reuters, Oct. 13, 2011]

MALAWI TO ALLOW SUDAN'S BASHIR IN FOR
SUMMIT

(By Mabvuto Banda)

JOHANNESBURG (Reuters).—Malawi will allow Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir into the country for a regional trade summit

starting on Friday and has no plans to arrest him under an International Criminal Court warrant, a senior government official said on Thursday.

"Malawi believes in brotherly coexistence between COMESA states and beyond so we will not arrest him. He is a free person in Malawi," Deputy Foreign Minister Kondwani Nankhumwa told Reuters.

The decision will likely lead to the further diplomatic isolation of Malawi's President Bingu wa Mutharika, who is locked in diplomatic row with major aid donor Britain and earned international condemnation after government forces killed 20 protesters at anti-government rallies in July.

COMESA is the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa.

The ICC issued an arrest warrant last year for Bashir on charges of orchestrating genocide in the Darfur region, where as many as 300,000 people have died since 2003.

The European Union in August expressed concern about a second visit to Chad by Bashir, saying he should have been arrested. Bashir has also gone to countries including Kenya, Djibouti and China since warrants have been issued.

The ICC earlier issued a warrant in March 2009 for war crimes and crimes against humanity. Bashir has dismissed the charges by the ICC, the world's first permanent court for prosecuting war crimes, as part of a Western conspiracy.

The influential international right group, Human Rights Watch, said Malawi was bound by its international obligations to arrest Bashir.

"Malawi should instead uphold its commitment to justice for grave crimes by cooperating with the ICC, as civil society across Africa has called on their leaders to do," said Elise Keppler, senior counsel with the group.

IN SUPPORT OF THE GREAT CALIFORNIA SHAKEOUT

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 24, 2011

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize another successful Great California ShakeOut that occurred on October 20, 2011.

On 10:20 am, over 8.6 million Californians took part in a Drop, Cover, and Hold On earthquake drill. This was an increase from the 7.9 million people who participated in last years' drill.

The Great California ShakeOut occurs on the third Thursday of October each year. Schools, businesses, tribes, government officials, faith-based organizations, non-profit organizations, and more participated in this year's Great California ShakeOut. The purpose of the Great California ShakeOut is to raise earthquake preparedness among all stakeholders in the State.

As the Ranking Member of the Homeland Security Subcommittee on Emergency Preparedness, Response, and Communications, I applaud my home State of California for taking earthquake preparedness seriously.

California is no stranger to having earthquakes. Earthquake preparedness in California has saved countless lives and money.

Having effective emergency plans in place for earthquakes and other disasters has proven to save lives. I will continue to fight to ensure that our communities in California and

across the country have the resources available to handle emergency situations.

Mr. Speaker, again I congratulate Californians on another successful Great California ShakeOut. While the Great California ShakeOut occurs once a year, it serves as a reminder to us all that emergency planning needs to be a year-round effort.

A TRIBUTE TO RUTH CHERRY

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 24, 2011

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute and to honor Ruth Cherry for her tremendous impact on the lives of Brooklyn youth.

Ruth Cherry has made a lifelong commitment to educating young children and their families by providing them with opportunities that encompass the most innovative learning strategies and essential services to spark a new-range of possibilities in their lives.

Born in "Snakebite" and raised in Ahoskie, North Carolina, Ruth earned her BA degree in Psychology at North Carolina Central University and her Masters degree in Education from Bank Street College of Education in New York.

In 1965 the Federal Government declared a "War on Poverty" by creating Head Start, a national preschool program for underserved young children and their families. It was then that Ruth Cherry would be able to hone her skills and solidify her commitment to children and families when in 1966 the Bedford Stuyvesant community, under the sponsorship of a community based organization named Youth-In-Action, created the Bedford Stuyvesant Head Start—now known as Bedford Stuyvesant Early Childhood Development Center, Inc.

Ruth Cherry began her career in education as a Group Teacher and as Bed Stuy Head Start's first official employee. Through devotion and hard work Ruth was able to diligently move up the ladder. Ruth went from her first role as Group Teacher to her current role as Executive Director, with many positions in between.

During Ruth Cherry's 40-year tenure and counting at Bed Stuy Head Start she has been the forerunner of the development, coordination and implementation of programs that meet the needs of the children and families of Bedford Stuyvesant. Ruth has utilized her expertise as an "award-winning" grant writer to acquire millions of dollars to supplement existing, and implement additional high-quality services to children and families. One such grant allowed Bed Stuy Head Start to implement a New York State Even Start Family Literacy Program which provided adults who were deemed most in need with an opportunity to participate in adult literacy programs that led to a GED.

After the September 11th crisis, Ruth wrote a grant that created a program to support and provide mental health services to Bed Stuy Head Start families affected by the tragedy.

Her latest endeavors include the development and coordination of one of the first Universal Pre-Kindergarten programs in the Greater New York area and the Bed Stuy Head Start Extended Day Program.